

# MAURITANIA

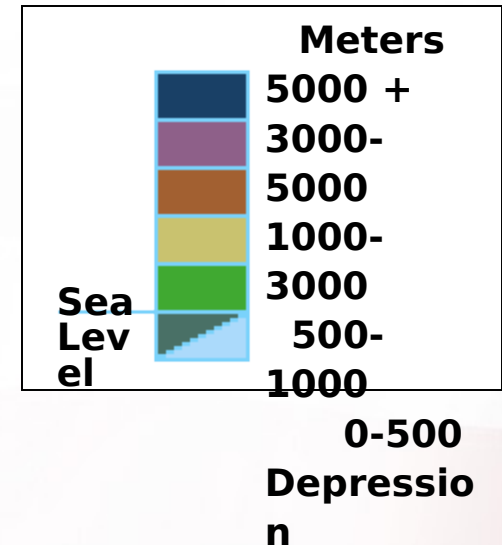


Ethnic tensions between its black minority population and the dominant Maur (Arab-Berber) population.

# Mauritania: Environmental Issues

- Topography
- Climate

**Desert; constantly  
hot, dry, dusty**



**Terrain: mostly  
barren, flat plains of  
the Sahara; some central  
hills**

***lowest point:* Sebka de  
Ndrhamcha -3 m**

***highest point:* Kediet Ijill 910 m**

# Mauritania: Environmental Issues

- Air

- Low risk
- Emissions from vehicles using leaded gasoline
- Particulates from trash burning

- Soil

- 38 tons of known obsolete pesticides are stockpiled in Mauritania
- Localized to specific areas surrounding industrial facilities and waste disposal sites.
- Significant exposure to contaminants in soil is unlikely in the absence of wind-blown dust, active digging, or migration of contaminants from soil into ground water.

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. The title is enclosed in a red rectangular border.

# **Mauritania: Environmental Issues**

- Food
  - Fish processing with water contaminated with fuel oil and raw sewage.
  - Food may also be contaminated with industrial particulates, chemicals from soil, pesticides, fertilizers, and fecal pathogens.
- Water
  - Raw sewage
  - Surface water contamination during seasonal floods.
  - Agrochemical overuse and increasing industrial activities.

The background of the slide is a faded American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The title is enclosed in a red-bordered box.

# **Mauritania: Environmental Issues**

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
  - Water contaminated with raw sewage
  - Runoff containing fecal pathogens.
  - Temperature extremes



# Mauritania: Diseases of Operational Importance

- **High risk** country
- Diseases of greatest risk
  - Food and water-borne: Bacterial diarrhea, Hepatitis A, Protozoal diarrhea and Typhoid/paratyphoid fever
  - Vector-borne: Malaria
  - Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Hepatitis B

# Mauritania: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Diseases of Potential Risk

- Food and waterborne Diseases: Brucellosis, Cholera, Hepatitis E
- Vector-borne Diseases: Boutonneuse fever (Mediterranean spotted fever), Chikungunya, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Dengue fever, Leishmaniasis, Rift Valley fever, Sindbis (Ockelbo) virus, Gambiense trypanosomiasis (African), Murine typhus (flea-borne), West Nile fever and Yellow fever
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and HIV/AIDS
- Water-contact Diseases: Leptospirosis, Schistosomiasis
- Respiratory Diseases: Meningococcal Meningitis and Tuberculosis
- Animal-contact: Anthrax, Q-Fever and Rabies